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## BOOK NOTICES.

## THE EAST GREENLAND EXPEDITION.

*Den östgrönlandske Expedition, udført i Havene 1883-'5, under Ledelse af G. Holm. Kjöbenhavn, 1. Del, 1889. Anden Del, 1888. 2 vols. 8°.*

The East Greenland Expedition was accomplished during the years 1883-'5, under the command of Lieutenant (now Captain) Holm. This narrative of its proceedings is edited by F. Johnstrup, and forms volume X of the *Meddelelser om Grønland*.

The first volume and the first part of the second volume contain contributions by members of the expedition. Professor Steenstrup's historical sketch commences with the first landing in Greenland, in A. D. 986, of Erik Rauthi (Erik den Röden, Eric the Red), a banished earl, who founded the colony. This is followed by interesting accounts of the early explorations of the country, illustrated by reproductions of various ancient maps, the oldest of which bears the date of 1570. The second article in the first volume is by Lieutenants Holm and Garde, and is a full account of the expedition and its discoveries and observations in archæology, physical geography, geology, and natural history. The description of the customs of the people is extremely well written, and the chapters on their folklore and dialects are full of interest. The shaman of the East Greenland Eskimo is the *angekok*. To him all spirits which exist are visible, and he is of course endowed with supernatural powers. Real sorcerers also exist, who are malignant and greatly feared. If a sorcerer does not make use of his art he is, after awhile, afflicted with fits, which thus betray his real character. He is then stretched upon the ground with heavy stones on his belly—the *peine forte et dure* of old English penal law—and is slowly starved. If he make confession of his sorceries his life is spared, but his necromantic powers will have departed forever.

The *angekok* has the ready wit and impudent pretensions of his class. He can bring good luck in hunting and fishing, can insure favorable winds, and do generally all those things which an exclusive acquaintance with the spirits would seem to authorize. The

East Greenland Eskimo do not worship these spirits, but they wear amulets obtained from the *angekok* to protect themselves against them. There is one spirit in the shape of a woman of gigantic proportions in whose hair hang seals, walruses, and fish. She has control over the inhabitants of the deep sea, and when the *angekok*, aided by his particular spirit, succeeds in combing her hair the animals swim to the coast and are captured.

The second volume is devoted to the anthropology of the East Greenlanders, of whom the *Anmagsalik* tribe forms the larger portion, and their appearance, dimensions, crania (of the *mesocephalic* type), their dresses, dwellings, implements, and weapons are carefully described and admirably illustrated by the excellent plates which form a large part of this volume.

ROBERT FLETCHER.

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*De l'oreille au point de vue anthropologique et médico-légal. Par le Dr. J. Julia. Lyon, 1889. [Bibliothèque d'anthropologie criminelle et des sciences pénales.]*

As much has been written of late about the ear from an anthropologic and medico-legal point of view, and as the work of Dr. Julia comes to us in the form of a pamphlet of 118 octavo pages printed in large leaded type with wide margins, it is needless to say that it is not an exhaustive treatise. It is designed only to sketch the subject in general terms and to advance certain opinions of the author. The book consists of six chapters, of which the first only is of special interest to the anthropologist. This chapter contains brief but clear descriptions, illustrated with outline figures, of the more important anomalies and variations in the form of the pavilion of the ear which have been noted by anthropologists and which have been considered by some of them as important signs of degeneracy. To those who have not the time to study this subject extensively or have not access to the works, mostly in Italian, which treat of it, we can recommend the perusal of this short but instructive chapter. It is not, however, likely to give the reader an unbiassed judgment of the claims of those who affirm that "the pavilion should be placed in the front rank of organs offering characteristics of degeneration." The author avowedly labors "to contest the veracity of the affirmations of the Italian school of